

# Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties

## Addendum

MIHP Number: B-3602

Property Name: H. L. Carpel Building  
Property Address: 520 Albemarle St., Baltimore, MD 21202

Based on a site visit conducted on December 14, 2005 by John Milner Associates, on behalf of Maryland Mass Transit Administration (MTA), this property is no longer extant.

B - 3602

H.L. Carpel Building  
public (restricted)

1940

The H.L. Carpel Building is a 1-story steel frame, concrete and brick block which was built as a cheese distribution facility for a major east coast wholesaler. The building is significant for its sculptural program, a characteristic example of the Moderne style of ornamentation.

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

H.L. Carpel Building

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

520 Albemarle Street

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

3

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland 21202

COUNTY

Baltimore City

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**NAME Maryland Dept. of Transportation  
State Highway Administration (Office of Real Estate)  
Telephone #: (301) 383-4145

STREET &amp; NUMBER

501 St. Paul Place

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21202

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Baltimore City Court House

Liber #: 7961

Folio #: 433

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

None

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION****CONDITION**☐ EXCELLENT☐ GOOD☒ FAIR☐ DETERIORATED☐ RUINS☐ UNEXPOSED**CHECK ONE**☐ UNALTERED☒ ALTERED**CHECK ONE**☒ ORIGINAL SITE☐ MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

The H.L. Cappel Building is located in the lot framed by Al-  
bemarle Street on the east, Fleet Street on the south, President  
Street on the west, and Duker Court on the north, in Little Italy,  
Baltimore City, Maryland. The building consists of a 1-story  
rectangular block of steel frame, concrete, and brick construction  
with a flat roof marked by numerous small ventilator stacks. The  
north third of the block projects slightly above the roofline of  
the rest of the building. Facades are regularly pierced with in-  
dustrial sash windows and overhead doors, both in several sizes.  
Bays on the south adjoin a rail spur, while those on the west, a  
loading dock for trucks. Walls on the east, south, and west are  
faced in glazed buff brick and are distinguished by a concrete  
cornice, a pair of triple string courses laid in English bond,  
and a concrete wainscot. The north wall is plain, faced in un-  
glazed red brick. The main entry, centered on the east or prin-  
cipal facade, is framed in a slightly projecting concrete sur-  
round. Above the door is a small cantilevered canopy, and flank-  
ing it on either side, a pair of small concrete blocks faced with  
relief sculpture. Adjoining the west wall is a small 1-story  
block with a square chimney. Its surfaces have received the same  
treatment as the rest of the building.

Alterations to the property include a bricked-in window on  
the left side of the east facade and two 1-story concrete block  
additions, one of which is attached to the original building on  
the west.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1940

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Carl Ganter & Assoc.,  
 Alexander G. Porter, George  
 E. Stone

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The H.L. Carpel Building is significant for its sculptural program, a characteristic example of the Modern style of ornamentation. The program consists of two major parts: a relief panel above the main door, inscribed in Modern type with the company's name; and, flanking it on either side, a pair of small concrete blocks faced with pictorial reliefs. The relief panel, cast in concrete, is likely the work of the building's architects, Carl Ganter and Associates and Alexander G. Porter, all of Baltimore, and George E. Stone of Washington. The pictorial reliefs are the work of Alexander Porter's brother, Gibson, a local painter and sculptor, educated at the Maryland Institute's Rinehart School of Sculpture (1936).

The theme of his work is closely related to the building's function. The plant was to serve as a cheese distribution facility for H.L. Carpel, a major wholesaler with offices in Washington, Pittsburgh, Richmond, Norfolk and Roanoke. Notably, the Baltimore American proclaimed the "ultra-modern food specialty plant" the "focus of a world-wide cheese trade". Thus, with encyclopaedia illustrations as a source of inspiration, Gibson carved the block left of the door to represent "Transportation" and that to the right, "The Making of Cheese".

Unfortunately, the State Roads Commission, (SHA), upon acquiring the property, attempted to sandblast the images away. Yet enough remains for one to identify the various figures.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

See continuation sheet.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY ca. 1.49 A.  
Quadrangle Name: Baltimore East  
Quadrangle Scale: 1: 24 000  
UTM References: 18,361830.4349360

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

Baltimore City, Ward 3, sec, 6, Block 1439, lot 1 (see plat)

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Richard D. Meyer/Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust

DATE

1980

STREET & NUMBER

21 State Circle

TELEPHONE

(301) 269-2438

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland 21401

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

B - 3602  
H.L. Cappel Building

Chain of Title

Kraft Foods Company to State Roads Commission  
16 November 1949                      MLP 7961/433

H.L. Cappel of Baltimore, Inc. to Kraft Cheese Company  
7 January 1942                      MLP 6265/543

Safe Deposit and Trust Company of Baltimore, Trustee,  
et al per will of Herman H. Duker (ERD 168/218) to  
H.L. Cappel of Baltimore, Inc.  
6 July 1939                      MLP 5936/607

B - 3602  
H.L. Carpel Building

9.

Baltimore American, 10 March 1940.

Baltimore Evening Sun, 18 July 1956, 25 August 1966.

Baltimore Sun, 25 February 1940, 19 July 1956,  
25 August 1966.

Ganter, Carl, interview with author, Baltimore,  
7 April 1980 (he possesses all records re-  
lating to the building).

Gardens, Houses, and People, July 1943, p. 6.

Land Records of Baltimore City.

Porter, Gibson, interview with author, Baltimore,  
1 April 1980.

Power Pictorial, no. 45, August 1940, p. 14.

The Rinehart School 75th Anniversary, Baltimore;  
The Maryland Institute, College of Art, 1971.



# REVISIONS.

Lots 12, 16/19 Const'd. Per App. C. Sh. 3071.

Lots 14-15, 21, 24-26 Const'd. Per App. 2085 & Lot 27-31 Not changed, C. Sh. 4452.

Lot 11 Per P. L. D. C. Sh. 4605.

B-3602  
CARPEL BLDG.

EASTERN

AVENUE

STREET

STREET

PRESIDENT

ALPHEUS

FLEET

STREET

1/2

1943

12/13

1943

12/14

13

12

11

10

9

8

7

6

5

4

3

2

1

1/10

1943

20/30

1943

1/10

1943

1/10

1943

1/10

1943

1/10

1943

1/10

1943



BALTIMORE

B-3602  
H.L. Carpel Bldg.  
Baltimore East  
1:24 000  
1953, rev. 1966

HIL CARPEN  
OF BALTIMORE INC



B.C. B-3402

M/DOT

HL CARPET BLDG BALTO. CITY

1 of 3

EAST ELEV.

JDH. 4/80



~~B~~ B-3402

H.L. CARPEL BUILDING, BALTO. CITY

PICTORIAL RELIEF (LEFT SIDE)

"TRANSPORTATION" BY GIBSON PORTER

E. EL.

HNEAK 4/80 MHT

2 of 3





~~BK~~ — B-3602

H.L. CARPES BUILDING, BALTO. CITY

PICTORIAL RELIEF (RIGHT SIDE)

"THE MAKING OF CHEESE" BY GIBSON PORTER

E. EL.

HNEDAK 4/80 MHT

3 of 3